



# ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environment

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul La Courreye, EPA Region 9 Site Screening Coordinator  
FROM: Patty Cook, E & E, Inc.  
DATE: September 27, 1988  
SUBJECT: Completed Work  
cc: Marcia Brooks, E & E, Inc.

This list is for the attached completed:

- ☐ PA(s)  
☐ PA Review(s)  
☒ PA Reassessment(s)  
☐ SI(s)  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*PA 2  
Com. Pleaded  
12-2-88*

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>EPA I.D.#</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State Recom- mendation</u>	<u>FIT Recom- mendation</u>	<u>State Lead</u>
Long Chemical, Inc.	CAD009663295	Los Angeles	SI	NFA	-
Dico Oil Company	CAD980737076	Signal Hill	Pending	<del>mSSI</del>	-
Wilmington Ave. Dump	CAD981438609	Huntington Park	SI	NFA	-

*Fit → A, PA2, m, F, 01/18/89*

*F*



## ecology and environment, inc.

717 W. TEMPLE ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012, TEL. 213-481-3870

International Specialists in the Environment

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul La Courreye, EPA Region 9 Site Screening Coordinator

FROM: Jeff Muller, Ecology and Environment, Inc.

DATE: September 28, 1988

SUBJECT: Reassessment of the Dico Oil Company  
1845 East Willow Street  
Los Angeles, California 90806  
(Los Angeles County)

EPA ID#: CAD980737076

THROUGH: Dan Millison, Ecology and Environment, Inc. *DM*

COPY: FIT Master File  
Patty Cook, Ecology and Environment, Inc.  
Don Plain, California Department of Health Services, Sacramento  
Jim Levy, EPA Region 9, T-2-4

### INTRODUCTION

Under Technical Directive Document number F9-8709-019, Ecology and Environment, Inc.'s Field Investigation Team (FIT) has been tasked to reassess all Preliminary Assessments (PAs) in the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) with "active" or "pending" status according to guidelines established to implement the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The strategy for determination of further action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) is based solely on each site's potential to achieve a score high enough on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). This strategy is intended to identify those sites posing the highest relative risk to human health or the environment. All other sites needing remedial or enforcement follow-up will be referred to the State or an appropriate Federal agency.

This site was evaluated primarily using the original HRS model. Additionally, this site was also evaluated for its potential to score using the draft revised HRS model. The following is a summary of FIT's findings with regard to this site.

## SUMMARY

The Dico Oil Company is located at 1845 East Willow Street in Signal Hill (Los Angeles County), California. Though surrounded primarily by industry, two residences are located within 2000 feet of the unpaved, bermed, and fenced site.

The facility, which was built by the TCL Corporation in 1952, has been operated by three different companies: the TCL Corporation (1952-1958), the Western Oil Reduction Company (1958-1960), and finally the Dico Oil Company (1960-present).

Ownership of the site has also varied. Although an accurate record of ownership could not be obtained, Richard Cowan apparently owned the property until an unknown date in 1985. In that year, John Holbrecht and Bianca Dehne may have taken ownership of the site.

Throughout its 33 year history, Dico Oil has been operated as a process storage and petroleum dehydration facility. Asphalt emulsions, crude oil, diesel fuels, waste oils, and light to heavy fuel oils contaminated with water and solids are accepted from various sources and placed into six steel tanks of unknown capacity. After separation of the oil/water mixture, the water is siphoned off into two 10,800 gallon steel-lined pits. The reclaimed petroleum products are then sold to the bunker oil market (ship fuel).

Wastewater has been hauled off-site by three separate hazardous waste haulers to four different locations:

<u>Location of Disposal</u>	<u>Name of Hauler</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
TCL-Terminal Island	Routh and Dico	1960 to 1965
Palos Verdes Landfill	Routh and Dico	1965 to 1972
BKK	Crosby and Overton	1972 to 1984
Crosby and Overton	Crosby and Overton	1984 to 1985

Sludges, contained in the wastewater pits, are also transported off-site by licensed hazardous waste haulers. However, sludge removal has not been carried out for over twenty years.

On July 1, 1982 Dico applied for an E.P.A identification number. Due to the toxic and ignitable nature of the wastes, an EPA identification number was required before waste oils could be shipped to Dico. The EPA complied and granted Dico status as a TSD facility, RCRA-exempt recycler on 8/2/82. A facility inspection, in response to Dico's application for RCRA status, was not conducted by the Department of Health Services (DOHS) until 5/21/85. The report noted a lack of records concerning written inspections, waste analysis, personnel training, closure plans, and financial responsibility. The report recommended further that the facility be paved. Further concern was expressed by the EPA on 5/14/86 due to the possibility of leakage from the pits. Indeed, the site was on a list of 156 facilities required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to conduct hydrogeologic investigations due to possible hydrocarbon contamination. However, funding for this project was not approved.

The DOHS in a PA of Dico Oil prepared in October, 1985 recommended the site be assigned a pending status. FIT does not concur with this recommendation, but instead recommends that Dico be assigned a medium priority SSI due to the following factors: 1) a large quantity of highly toxic waste may have been processed over the long operational period of the facility; 2) the nearby Cherry Hill fault may interconnect the aquifers of the Lakewood formation with the important drinking water aquifers of the San Pedro formation; 3) the waste oils and waste water are contained in steel lined pits and tanks, that, due to their unknown integrity, may be releasing petroleum by-products to the subsurface; 4) a well, located within two miles of the site, serves a population of greater than 10,000; and 5) there is a possibility of documenting an observed release to groundwater due to the relatively shallow depth to the aquifer of concern.

#### RECOMMENDATION

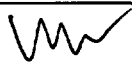
##### 1) EPA

FIT recommends that the Dico Oil Company be assigned a medium priority SSI due to the following HRS factors:

- o the possibility of documenting an observed release to the aquifer of concern;
- o a potentially large quantity of toxic wastes;
- o and the presence of a well located within one mile of the site that serves a population of greater than 10,000.

##### 2) State or Other Agency

A Copy of this reassessment will be sent to the Department of Health Services.

<u>EPA CONCURRENCE</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Date</u>
No Further Action Under CERCLA	_____	_____
High Priority SSI	_____	_____
Medium Priority SSI	_____  _____	_____ <u>12-21-88</u> _____



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